



Memorial Day

National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona

Monday, May 31, 2010
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

In his second Inaugural Address, Ronald Reagan spoke about what he called "The American sound."

He said the American Sound was hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent, and fair.

I believe that American Sound seems to echo most vibrantly on Memorial Day, rolling through these headstones and into the hearts of those connected to them.

If you listen closely, I think you can almost hear the voices of these heroes.

There is Frank Sacco, Corporal, U.S. Army, World War I. It's Memorial Day, Frank, we're here for you.

We're here for you with small American flags, pushed through the earth.

We bring the fragrance of newly blossomed flowers, moist with freshly cut stems.

Others will be here, soon, with trumpets to remember you and what you did in battle, face to face with the consuming forces of evil.

We have come to read your names, to touch your markers.

We think about you, Nathan Cook, as the last survivor of the Spanish American War.

Others will come with salutes with rifles, and it will be for you who came here like Charles E. Haak, Private First Class, U.S. Army Air Forces, World War II.

Richard M. Hunter, Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, Korea, we are here for you.

We have come for you, William Montoya Valdez, Corporal, U.S. Marines, from Vietnam, and you, Shannon R. Abercrombie, Captain, U.S. Army, the Persian Gulf.

And you, Thomas Rabjohn, Staff Sergeant, team leader to the 363rd Explosives Ordinance Detection Company, Afghanistan, who faced the fire while patrolling freedom's wall.

We have come because you all gave the last full measure of devotion.

We have come again with quiet voices.

We assemble to resolve that none of you, not one of you died in vain.

We will pledge that your rows will not lengthen without just cause.

We have come to deliver to you the sweet enduring promise that the United States of America shall not perish from the Earth.

We come -- sons and daughters, wives and husbands, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, friends, fellow Americans, keepers of the flag, and freedom's promise.

We are here.

We have not forgotten.

So, those are the voices I hear.

Maybe you can hear them, too.

They echo through these rows, on this Memorial Day -- filling the vivid air with the warm touch of God's Grace.

That is the American sound.

Thank you.

Because it is a privilege to express our gratitude to those whose sacrifices serve as constant reminders of the high price of liberty; as Governor of Arizona, I have proclaimed this day -- May 31st, 2010 -- "Arizona Memorial Day."

We remember and honor all those courageous men and women of our armed forces who have risked and lost their lives to protect America's interests, to defend our freedom, to preserve our values, and to advance the ideals of democracy.

I have directed that in respect and recognition of these courageous men and women, all veterans of the United States Military Services, state and local government officials, educators, students, historians, and all patriotic citizens of this great state and nation are encouraged to observe Memorial Day, May 31, 2010 with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Thank you very much.

God bless you and your families, God bless the memory of our fallen heroes, and may God bless Arizona and the United States of America.